THE BI-MONTHLY

Newsletter of the Bisexual Center

Volume 5 Number 2 March-April 1981

COVER GRAPHIC: Cupid Meets the Moral Majority (the Op Art background is from Jean Larcher, Geometrical Designs and Optical Art, Dover Pub., 1974. Used by permission.)

NEW BI CENTER PHONE NUMBER

In order to improve the telephone information we provide to our community, we have moved our business to one of the new computerized phone exchanges. This will provide us with greater flexibility and expansion capability, now and later.

However, this has also required us to change our existing number. The new phone number is 929-929 929. Actually, it's not necessary to dial the last -29, but it doesn't hurt, either! Another way to dial the new number is to dial WAY-WAY WAY. Again, the last -AY is not needed, so that the way to get to the Bi Center is to dial a little better than two ways.

If any of this is confusing, dialing the old number will give you a recording of the new number, for a year or so.

We hope that you will continue to call the Bi Center community phone for information on Bi Center activities and with your ideas and/or needs.

BI CENTER ON THE RADIO

On Sunday, March 15, at 10:00 P.M., Maggi Rubenstein and David Lourea will be guests on "The Gay Life," with host Randy Alfred. The topic will be "Bisexuality and the Bi Center," and will be aired on KSAN, which is 95 on your FM dial.

THE BISEXUAL CENTER

P.O. Box 26227
San Francisco, CA 94126
(415) 929-9299

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Jim Haws, Steve Kasner, Marilyn King, David Lourea, Lee Olivier, Maggi Rubenstein, Gregory Wood

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membership

	Full-time Student
$6 -	Unemployed, Retired
$12 -	Regular
$13-100	Contributing
$101-1000	Sustaining

Make check payable to:
The Bi Center & mail to
P.O. Box 26227
San Francisco, Ca. 94126

Name_____
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Home phone_____ Bus.#_____
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How did you hear about the Bi Center?_____

WHAT'S IT WORTH ?
by Neil Fullagar

I want to talk about responsibility.

I can't tell you what the Bisexual Center is worth to you. I can tell you that the Center has made a real difference for me, and that some of the people I've met and worked with at the Center have become my closest friends.

I know, too, that through the efforts of the Center and its members, prejudices and fears about bisexuality have been lessened. To say the word "bisexual" is no longer to invite snickers. The educational work of the Center must be continued and strengthened, especially with the renewed attack from the "Moral Majority."

I can tell you what the Bisexual Center needs from you. First, let's talk about money. I was asked recently "Why join? What can I get by joining that I can't get for free?" The answer is: what you get for joining is that the Center will continue to exist. Without membership money, we shut down.

The good news in all of this is that the Center is currently solvent. Not rich, just solvent. A year ago we weren't sure if the Center could go on. We had to hope for money in the mail each week so we could pay the printer, the phone company, and so on. We were in the bad position of deciding which bills to pay right away, and which to stall. Now we can pay the bills—if we're careful

One of the things I've noticed is that a lot of our memberships come in at the low-income rate of $6.00. For that much, we can't do much more than print and mail this newsletter. The Bisexual Center should of course be accessible to people of limited means—that's important —but I feel some reflection is due here on values and priorities. How much does a movie cost? A bag of dope? A weekend at a hot spring? Many of us find the money for some of these things, but are "broke" when it comes to supporting the Center.

Besides money, the Center runs on huge amounts of time and energy. Decorating and buying refreshments for parties, collecting at the door, cleaning up afterwards, answering the mail, producing the newsletter: these are just some of the things we need help with. In addition to these regular tasks, there are always several special projects we would like to take up if the time and energy were available.

The Bisexual Center exists to serve a real and growing community. We need your help.

Love Crisis in America
by David Griffin

I've seen the lines of cars
Waiting to fill their thirsty tanks
And lighten drivers' wallets.

But there are no love pumps;
No odd-even love rationing;
Nor do the Arabs control its
world supply.

The energy crisis is proclaimed
from every rooftop.
Yet, even if the crisis of love
Were more serious than it seems to be,
It will never make the morning paper.

The effects of the energy crisis
are obvious.
But the effects of the crisis of love,
Silent and devastating,
Lie hidden behind apartment walls,
False smiles and cocktail glasses.

I wonder,
Were the nation's economy based on
love received,
Rather than profit margins,
And were the national deficit
Measured in units of loneliness,
Would the price of gas seem so important?

Letters

Dear Editor:

I'm writing in response to the article in the January Bi-Monthly, "Know That I Loved You...." Julie (the author) describes a situation many of us have painfully experienced --getting emotionally involved with someone whose understanding is too limited to include bisexuality. I support Julie in standing up for herself and in protecting her pride in her own identity. Yet I was honestly taken aback by one of her closing statements: "To anyone out there with a Latino boyfriend who understands, accepts, and still loves you, consider yourself blessed." The implication seems to be that of a rather stereotyped view of Latinos, and I can't agree. Some Latinos, and Latinas, are homophobic. Some are also supportive, straight, bi, gay, or lesbian. It's really pretty unfair to present the view that one has to be lucky to find an accepting Latino--or at least, that one has to be any luckier than one is to find an accepting Anglo!

As bisexuals we do confront stereotypes about ourselves, and it's a good idea for us to seek out the stereotypes that might exist about other groups. In Latin America, for instance, the gay & lesbian movement is definitely growing! Brazil has had a strong lesbian & gay culture for some time and there's now a new magazine, Ventana Gay, out of Colombia too. San Francisco's Gay Sunshine Press has just last year published Now the Volcano, an anthology of gay Latin American literature. The bisexual movement as a sister movement can't be far behind!

So, let's continue to feel pride in our own identities--and to protect and nurture these identities--and reach out to join with others who are growing too.

Sincerely,
Kerth O'Brien
Ann Arbor, Michigan

Winter Wonderland

Here is a "collage" of impressions from some of the people who made up the Bi Center's "Winter Wonderland" trip to the Sierras:

* * * * * * * * * * * *

Nine days of rest, skiing, snow fights, starry nights, good food, great friends, wonderful conversation, so many things to make up our Winter Wonderland. Thank you, Grant, for all the work it took to make it a total success. Same time next year!

* * * * * * * * * * *

Enjoyed the winter madness!

* * * * * * * * * * *

The joy of the saucer sliders
as they shot down the slope
The warmth and love at the breakfast table
The lousy puns
Cold winter nights
And blazing firelight
"Let's do this again!"

* * * * * * * * * * *

The ski weekend was great experience. It gave me an opportunity to bruise my knee, sprain my thumb, and go down a ski run backwards. We all had a great time sharing the cooking, cleaning, and stories. We also met a lot of people. All in all, we feel that our stay was too short, and we are looking forward to the Second Annual Bi Center ski Winter Wonderland. It would be great if it could be done again this year. Those of you who weren't able to come missed a beautiful time in which our love and friendship was at a constant high.

* * * * * * * * * * * *

It was (is, I'm still there!) wonderful. Gambling and playing in Tahoe with Grant and Arlene, insane saucering--writing most of my paper (Responsibility in Murder) next to the fireplace--skiing with Tom--God! Discovering Squaw Valley --it's heaven! Going up the giant Cable Car--the view of Lake Tahoe from the very top of the mountain--the Emigrant Trail--the lift attendants, male and female--so cute and hot and warm ("Thank you," I said..."Thank you," he replied, with a glowing warmth...). Getting invited out

to a p.j. party by the woman at the ski rental desk--definitely an unusual experience!

So many beautiful people, so much energy, so much love. There were bummers, too--a car named "Sally Ann Toyota" that wouldn't start, except sometimes, and other assorted casualties--but the overwhelming, lasting memories will be of love overflowing. Thanks, Grant and Arlene, for making it happen, and thanks, Bi Center, for being there.

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MAY DAY

It's Spring, and all our fancies turn to thoughts of love, flowers, and positive energy. Bring all of the above to the May Day dance at the Bi Center, for a night to remember.

Date: Saturday, May 2
Time: 9:00 P.M.
Place: The Bi Center
Donation: $4.00 for members
$5.00 for non-members.

MEN'S NIGHT AT THE BI CENTER

Friday night, March 20, at 7:30 P.M., Grant and Don are hosting a Men's Pot Luck Dinner. It is our hope that this event will be a gourmand's delight (chefs of the Bi Center, UNITE!). Fine food, and wine, and interesting conversation will prevail throughout the evening. Please co-ordinate food and wine with Grant or Don at the Bi Center. We'll ask for a $3.00 donation from members, $4.00 from non-members.

COMMUNICATE!

You may already have noticed that all newsletters are going out first class. In the past, newsletters sent at cheaper rates often took three or four weeks to arrive. Now we expect to see more people at events in the first few weeks of each Bi-Monthly calendar. If your newsletter isn't reaching you promptly, please let us know right away. And, if you move, don't forget to give the Bi Center your new address.

WOMEN'S P.J. PARTY

Arlene is sponsoring an old-fashioned pajama party, for women only. Get out your baby dolls; bring your hair rollers, makeup, and your favorite records and snacks for a real fun night. Bedding or a sleeping bag is a necessity. Steven Brown has graciously loaned us his place on Twin Peaks, so we will meet at the Center at 7:30 P.M. for the car pool, or, call the Bi Center and leave a message for Arlene, if you want directions on how to get there.

Date: Friday, April 10
Time: 8:00 P.M. (7:30 for the car pool)
Donation: $3.00.
This event is open to members of the Bi Center ONLY.

ADVERTISEMENTS

(Bi-Monthly ads are $1.00/line, for members only. We cannot accept "relationship" ads.)

CHERRY BERRY FARM--Cheap and mellow vacation in Sierras. Bus or car, 1/2-hour to Kirkwood Ski. Write Steve, Box 79, Mt. Aukum, CA 95656. (No phone.)

A Surprising Victory for Privacy Rights

by Alan M. Rockway, Ph.D.

In a move sure to affect America's dealing with sexual-rights issues in the 1980's, voters in the historic battleground of Dade County and the State of Florida approved Constitutional guarantees for rights which were vigorously opposed by Anita Bryant and the so-called "moral majority" led by fundamentalist preacher Jerry Falwell. Co-authors of the original Gay/Bi Rights ordinance in Dade County in 1977, Dr. Alan Rockway, Bob Kunst and Melodie Moorehead have struggled since the initial campaign, defying discouragement and dwindling funds, to build what was a 31% pro-vote county-wide to a remarkable 62% vote statewide on the very day of the Reagan landslide, in November of 1980.

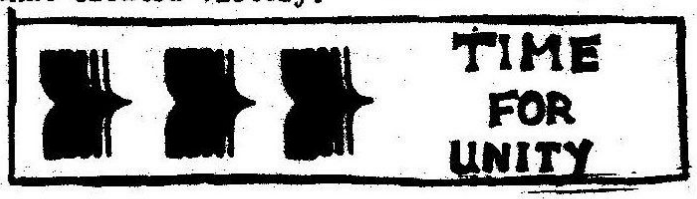
Instrumental in developing grass-roots support was a re-written version, the Full Equality Ordinance, which the trio put back on the 1978 ballot, collecting over 18,000 signatures. This ordinance defined sexual preference as including Gay (Homosexual), Bisexual, Heterosexual, and Asexual, and went on to provide non-discrimination provisions for other segments of the community, including students, women who'd had abortions, non-discrimination in financial credit (which greatly affected the Black Community), and non-discrimination in native language, aimed at the large Cuban and Haitian populations. In addition, the community became aware of the illegal suspension of Federal funds to Transperience, a specialized mental health program based upon each person's natural capacity for relations with both male and female. The fact that this was discrimination was proved by numerous newspaper articles such as "Bisexual program loses funding." Also operative was emerging proof of discrimination at a state government level, such as the forced resignation of Public Utilities Executive Jim Curasi, after disclosure of his Bisexual self-description.

When the 1978 votes were in, 42% of the voters concurred, reflecting an increase of 150%, from 92,000 to 140,000 votes, while the forces led by a still very visible Anita Bryant lost 15,000 votes from the 1977 totals. The Black Community supported this measure by 70%, compared with 50% in 1977, and the 12% vote in the Cuban Community was raised to between 35% and 40% of the vote, reflecting gains against the Catholic Archbishop, who continued to order an anti-rights vote from the pulpit. That same day in 1978 saw a victory by Anita Bryant against the statewide "little ERA" in Florida.

While Rockway, Kunst and Moorehead were determined to get back on the ballot, County officials reacted by virtually tripling the number of signatures required for ballot placement. Undaunted, the trio--with little volunteer support, but feeling that the third try was lucky--turned in another 33,333 signatures, a large percentage of which were collected within the Black Community. County election officials, reacting to great pressure from the Carter Campaign, which did not want this on an election year ballot, reacted by "purging" from voter lists all people not voting within the past two years, thus eliminating 11% of the white vote and almost 30% of the Black vote. The petitions were ruled "insufficient for ballot placement."

Dr. Rockway, Kunst, and Moorehead vowed to continue, reconceptualizing the "enemy" as depression, fear and discouragement within the Gay/Bi Community, and the complicity of some members of the gay establishment with the Carter campaign, for which they had become apologists, acting against the very needs of their own community to gain "acceptance." A campaign

was mounted for a statewide Constitutional Amendment giving everyone the "right to be let alone and free from government intrusion into one's private life." On an even grander scale, well covered by state and national press, the consciousness-issues of natural bisexuality, widespread non-monogamy, unmarrieds living together, etc., resulted in an electoral victory unpredicted by "political observers," in November, 1980. The forthcoming talk by Dr. Rockway at the Bi Center reveals the nuts-and-bolts chutzpa that created victory.



As we enter a reactionary political time, a growing number of right-wing religious and political people are determined to attack any values that "deviate from God s will." Our Constitutional right to separation of church and state are at stake. Under the banner of the "Moral Majority," the forces of prudishness and fear wish to deny all progressive rights. The Equal Rights Amendment, abortion rights, sex education and sexual preference rights are under siege.

Most bisexual people understand that anti-gay attitudes are also anti-bi attitudes. We are also the people who are "different" and non-traditional. Our statement of purpose, written four years ago, speaks clearly about our and all people's rights:

"We are people seeking to love and share intimately with both women and men. Self-defined as bisexuals (although such labels are limiting) we are working to create for ourselves and others a strong sense of community.

"We need a place to be ourselves, to be with one another, loving ourselves as we are and are becoming. The Bisexual Center will serve as a positive support base to facilitate communication, to teach each other by sharing what we are learning, and to explore the essence and potential of loving.

"These are our principles:

1. The Bisexual Center is united in struggling for the rights of all women and men to develop as whole, androgynous beings.
2. We support relationships between persons of the same and other sex. These relationships may include relating spiritually, socially, emotionally, sensually, sexually, and intellectually. We also support persons choosing a celibate lifestyle.
3. We support people who have been oppressed because of sexual preference, gender, age, or ethnic group.
4. We encourage and support people struggling:
   a. To bring about equality in areas of employment, housing, medical care, and complete sexual information.
   b. For the right to engage in the free expression of consenting sexual activity.
5. We support the open expression of affection and touch among people, without such expression necessarily having sexual implications."

Now, more than ever before, we must support each other and stand united with our gay brothers and lesbian sisters.

--Maggi Rubenstein

FLORIDA'S SEXUAL/PRIVACY RIGHTS ELECTION VICTORY OVER ANITA'S "MORAL MAJORITY"

ALAN M. ROCKWAY PH.D., the Florida Clinical Psychologist who co-authored Dade County's famed Gay/Bi Rights Ordinance discusses the unusual theory and daring Campaign techniques he used to win a 62% vote FOR Constitutional sexual and privacy rights in November 1980's historic, successful culmination of the 5-year struggle against the Bryant-Falwell axis of repression in the "holy land" of Gay/Bi Rights. Implications for national and international victories in the 80's.

Date: Thursday, March 26
Time: 8 P.M.
Place: Bi Sexual Center
Donation: $4.00 members
$5.00 non-members

BI SOCIETY PAGE

ST. PATRICK'S NITE PARTY

We're celebrating early! Put on your green, stick a four-leaf clover in your hair, and come to our St. Patrick's nite party. BYOB, as usual!

Date: Saturday, March 14
Time: 9:00 P.M.
Place: The Bi Center
Donation: $4.00 for members
$5.00 for non-members.

P.S. If you can't make the party, come to the Post-Party Cleanup and Brunch at the Bi Center on the following day. We plan to have a cleanup party and brunch on the day after each evening celebration at the Center.

DAY-AFTER-ST.-PAT'S-DAY-PARTY
RECUPERATION BRUNCH AND CLEANUP

Join the Bi Center the morning after the St. Patrick's Day party for Dim Sum (Sunday, March 15). Lunch will cost about $5.00 or $6.00.

Meet us at the Bi Center at 10:30 A.M., or come on over to KUM MOON on Clement St. We'll grab a big table and all sit together. Then we'll retreat to the Center for orange juice and cleanup.

Contact Jean at 664-6401 for more information, or leave a message for Arlene at the Bi Center.

Terpsichorean Ecstasy

Dust off those Joan Crawford pumps, press your Fred/Ginger attire, and dance the night away at the End-Up. Good rock disco music, soft lights, and a roaring fireplace, together with congenial people, will make the muses green with envy. This event is being hosted by Don. Date: Friday, March 27. Plan to meet at the Bi Center at 8:30 P.M., and please bring your car so we can car-pool. We'll ask for a $1.00 donation to the Center.

APRIL FOOL'S DAY PARTY

All kidding aside, we're really having a party on Saturday, April 4. Come and be as silly as you like! B.Y.O, of course. Starts at 9:00 P.M., at the Center. Donation: $3.00/members, $4.00/non-members.

PASSOVER SEDER AT THE BI CENTER

Join us for a Seder (the second night of Passover) at the Bi Center. Bring your favorite traditional dish to share. We will supply the matzos, Seder plate, and Arlene's delicious Banana Passover cake.

Date: Sunday, April 19
Time: 5:00 P.M.
Place: The Bi Center
Donation: $4.00 for members
$5.00 for non-members.

WINE & CHEESE PARTY

Our wine and cheese parties have been very successful, and it's now time for another one. Bring your favorite wine and cheese to share with friends for a night of relaxation and great conversation!

Date: Saturday, April 11
Time: 9:00 P.M.
Place: The Bi Center
Donation: $3.00 for members
$4.00 for non-members.

HIKE THE HEADLANDS

Paul Malkin will lead this fairly leisurely-paced hike along the beautiful Marin headlands on Sunday, March 22. We'll start at 11:00 A.M. and finish by 4:00 P.M. Bring lunch, and water. To make this a success, we'll need at least six people, so, if you're interested, contact Paul at 465-6045 (9:00-11:30 P.M.), at least two days in advance, to sign up--or, leave your name and phone no. at the Bi Center. Happy Trails!

ANOTHER BAR HOP

This one will start out at 7:30 P.M. on Saturday, April 18, with one of our local coffee-house-style hangouts. Then, at 9:30, "Hoppers" will be admitted, as my guest, to one of the city's most controversial and classy private clubs: Studio West Disco, Vallejo at Front (admission $4.00). I'll be checking periodically for late arrivals. Usually by 12:30 the risqué crowd has arrived in costume, and, having seen it all, we may decide to go elsewhere before breakfast.

See you then!

--Gregory

Groups & Workshops

I WANT TO BE CLOSE--
WAIT! NOT THAT CLOSE!

INTIMACY WORKSHOP FOR MEN AND WOMEN

A one-day workshop to explore ways of sharing intimately with others and to examine the risks and rewards involved in this process. We will examine the ways we set limits--and the ways we can push beyond those limits--in our intimate communications on both emotional and sexual levels. The workshop includes both verbal and non-verbal sharing in dyads and small groups.

Led by David Lourea and Marilyn King.
Date: Saturday, April 11
Time: 10:00 A.M.-6:00 P.M.
Place: The Bi Center
Cost: $30.00 for members
$35.00 for non-members.

Preregistration is essential. To preregister, send a check to Marilyn King, c/o the Bi Center, P.O. Box 26227, San Francisco, CA 94126. Deadline for preregistration is April 4. For more information, call Marilyn at 431-5513, or David, at 567-3871.

The LOVE TRANSPERIENCE:
Tapping the Bi Sexual Essence

A unique, touching, experiential workshop in triadic communication exploring the world of simultaneous male-female contact which balances and stimulates one's natural capacity for integrating loving relations with both male and female. Presented with blissful result at Colleges and Growth Centers across the US and Canada. Alan M. Rockway Ph.D.

Date: Saturday, April 25
Time: 11 A.M. to 5 P.M.
Place: Bi Sexual Center
Fee: $40.00 members
$50.00 non-members

PSYCHOLOGICAL VIEWS OF BI SEXUAL BEHAVIOR

A six-week academic, theoretical and therapy-technique oriented course examining professional psychological approaches, from traditional to radically innovative, concerning each human's potential and reality for intimacy with both male and female. Mental health, education, social service and lay people welcome. Instructor: Alan M. Rockway, Ph.D., University of Rochester in Clinical Psychology, 1969.

Day: Thursday
Begins: April 30 - June 4
Place: Bi Sexual Center
Fee: $60.00 members
$75.00 non-members

RELAXATION AND STRESS MANAGEMENT

We all experience stress in our lives which affects our health, emotions and creativity, sometimes more than we are aware of. This workshop will present different methods of relaxation, ways to identify stress in our lives and ways to cope with stress. The workshop will be lecture, group discussion and guided experiences. Please bring food for a pot luck lunch.

Laurence Hall is a biofeedback therapist and stress counselor, certified by the Biofeedback Society of California. He has taught this information to individuals and groups for three years. He is a Master's candidate at San Francisco State University.

Preregistration is required. Please send a check for $7.50 by March 21 to: Laurence Hall, 1234 Rhus Street, San Mateo, CA., 94402. For more information, call Laurence at 341-5320.

Date: Saturday, March 28, 1981
Time: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Cost: $15.00 for Bi Center members,
$20.00 for non-members
Location: Bi Center 1757 Hayes St., S.F.

BI-MONTHLY CALENDAR 1981

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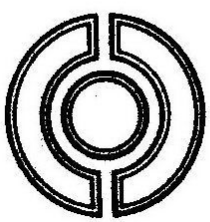

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